

HOUSE RESOLUTION 7  
By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION to commend Patricia L. (Pat) Crippins for her honorable and astute service to Knoxville and Knox County.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Patricia L. (Pat) Crippins is one such exceptional person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Crippins is a highly respected resident of the greater Knoxville community, and has served the people of that community for more than thirty-four years as an employee and East Neighborhood Center Director of the Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee and currently as the Administrator of Elections for the Knox County Election Commission; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her exemplary tenure in these positions, Ms. Crippins has distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to her community; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Crippins was born in Jefferson City to loving parents, Roy and Virginia (Sheers) Gwynn; and

WHEREAS, Upon graduating as Salutatorian from Nelson Merry High School, she matriculated at Carson-Newman College, there earning a Bachelor of Science degree with a composite Sociology/Philosophy major and a minor in Political Science; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, Ms. Crippins became the first African-American graduate of Carson-Newman College; and

WHEREAS, A firm believer in the power of knowledge, she has continued her studies in a number of training schools and workshops, as well as through graduate courses at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, Upon graduating from Carson-Newman, Ms. Crippins accepted a position with the Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee in October of 1968; she was promoted to serve as East Neighborhood Center Director in January of 1979; through all her endeavors with the Community Action Committee, she has worked tirelessly to serve the low-income population of east/northeast Knox County; and

WHEREAS, She has also served the Community Action Committee as Associate Staff Coordinator of the Community Leadership classes; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Crippins has served as a member of the Board of Directors for numerous community organizations, including the Center for Neighborhood Development, which she has served since its inception; the Community Health Agency Board, as Board Chair from 1994 until its replacement in 1996 by the Community Services Agency, of which she was also a Board Member; the Community Mediation Center until 1997, serving also as Vice-Chair in 1995; the Florence Crittenton Agency, from 1985 through 1991, also serving as President in 1991; the Knoxville Neighborhood Housing & Commercial Services, Inc. at Five Points, also serving as Board President in 1997; the Knox Housing Partnership, also serving on the Executive Committee in 1997; and the Metro Drug Commission, also serving on the Executive Committee from 1993 through 1997; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Crippins is an active force in governmental and civic activities in Knoxville, Knox County, and throughout the State, participating in such varied organizations as

the First Tennessee Bank's CRA Advisory Group; the National Fatherhood Initiative; the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; the Olympic Center at Five Points, which she has served as the volunteer program developer and an instructor; the Partnership for Neighborhood Improvement, which she served as a member of the Executive Committee in 1996, and the Nominating Committee in 1997; Project Change, as a Community Planning Team Member, and as Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors, 1995-1996; the class of 1997 of Leadership Knoxville; the Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare; and the YMCA, East Side Branch and YWCA, Phyllis Wheatley Branch; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Crippins has also founded a number of noteworthy organizations, including The Grapevine, an energetic, focused group of African-American women committed to nourishing each other and the youth of the community; The 3-D Concept, an opportunity for the community to foster communication with area elected officials on an on-going basis, outside of the usual political arenas; The 3-D Concept Group, a community-wide body of men promoting the "presence" of the African-American male in community and civic affairs; and The Brotherhood, a strategic planning body concerned with uplifting the community; and

WHEREAS, For her outstanding work in the community, Ms. Crippins has been specially recognized many times. Her many honors include being selected as a "Person to Watch" by the *Knoxville News-Sentinel* in 1998, and being elected State Co-Chairperson of the TACAA Neighborhood Service Center Committee in 1989; she has also been awarded the 1989 Mayor's Service Award by the Knoxville Community Housing Resource Board; 1990 Woman of the Year Award by the Morristown Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.; the 1993 Above and Beyond Award by the East Tennessee Foundation; the 1995 Unsung Hero Award by the Knoxville Chapter of the NAACP; the Andrawnetta Hawkins Award from the Tennessee Black Caucus of State Legislators; and the 2002 Humanitarian Award from the Fair Housing Conference; she also received National Honorable Mention in 1991 from the elder Bush Administration's 1000 Points of Light Initiative; and

WHEREAS, In addition to these good works, Ms. Crippins has also been featured as a lecturer at many civic and community conferences, and she has conducted workshops on many issues related to her work in community service; and

WHEREAS, She is an extremely giving person who reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and she epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Crippins is presently expanding her singular legacy as a public servant through her meritorious service as Administrator of Elections for the Knox County Election Commission; and

WHEREAS, Patricia L. (Pat) Crippins is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we recognize Ms. Patricia L. (Pat) Crippins for her tremendous service to Knoxville and Knox County as an active force with the Community Action Committee and the Election Commission. We thank her for her dedication to the people of Tennessee, and we wish her every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation, with this final clause omitted from such copy.